

ABSTRACT

Mold blocks and methods for thermoforming corrugated plastic pipe that provide a uniform vacuum on the internal lateral surface and optimize forced convective cooling on exterior surface is disclosed. Mating mold blocks have an interior surface with transverse corrugations and an exterior lateral surface having transverse channels containing radial slots that intersect circular slits formed in the interior mold surface. The channels are fitted with a dual cover arrangement that serves to provide (1) a low-resistance vacuum path to the slits located on the interior surface and (2) a forced convective heat transfer path to cool the mold blocks. The cover arrangement is removable, providing a convenient means of inspecting, maintaining and modifying the mold blocks.